

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6103
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, PARM, PINT, GW
SUBJECT: FRG PARTY POSITIONS ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON

REF: BONN 03068 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE JUNIOR FRG COALITION PARTY, THE
FREE DEMOCRATS (FDP), HAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION
FAVORING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ER/RB WEAPON INTO ARMS
NEGOTIATIONS. THE OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS/
CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST UNION (CDU/CSU) HAVE COME OUT IN
FAVOR OF A DECISION TO PRODUCE THE WEAPON AND TO INTRO-
DUCE IT INTO THE NATO ARSENAL. THE POSITION OF THE
LEADING COALITION PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SPD),
REMAINS THAT A DECISION ON PRODUCTION OF THIS WEAPON
IS UP TO WASHINGTON ALONE, AND THAT IF SUCH A DECISION
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IS MADE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE WEAPON SHOULD BECOME
THE SUBJECT OF EAST-WEST ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 21, THE FDP BUNDESTAG PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP (FRAKTION) ADOPTED A RESOLUTION STATING THAT:
...THE DECISION ON PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS

A SOVEREIGN U.S. DECISION.

...IF IT IS MADE AFFIRMATIVELY, THE WEAPON SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO ARMS CONTROL/LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS.

...IF, AFTER A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS, THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNPRODUCTIVE, A DECISION WOULD THEN BE IN ORDER ON THE MATTER OF DEPLOYING THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN EUROPE. IN SUCH A CASE, THE DECISION WOULD BE ONE FOR THE ALLIES TO MAKE, AND SHOULD NOT RESULT IN STATIONING OF THE WEAPON ONLY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

2. EARLIER, THE FDP PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE SPOKESMAN (MOELLEMANN) HAD SOUGHT A MORE UNCONDITIONALLY POSITIVE RESOLUTION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON, AFFIRMING ITS MILITARY VALUE TO NATO. AFTER INTENSIVE LAST-MINUTE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SPD, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EGON BAHR, THE FDP ADOPTED INSTEAD A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES ABOVE. THIS RESOLUTION IS SIMILAR TO THE POSITION OF THE SPD, AND THERE IS THUS SUBSTANTIAL HARMONY AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES ON THIS MATTER.

3. THE CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG MEMBERS ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON FEBRUARY 2L. THIS RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AGREE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOGETHER WITH OTHER ALLIES, TO A U.S. DECISION TO PRODUCE THE WEAPON, AND TO DEPLOY IT IN EUROPE AS PART OF NATO'S FORCES. THIS RESOLUTION ALSO STATES THE VIEW THAT THE NEUTRON WEAPON WOULD ENHANCE DETERRENCE, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE TANK FORCES OF THE USSR.

4. THE SPD HAD EARLIER ADOPTED A RESOLUTION (HAMBURG, NOVEMBER) STATING IN EFFECT THE HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR A NEUTRON WEAPON TO BE INTRODUCED INTO EUROPE. THIS REMAINS THE PARTY LINE. ONE RECENT SIGNIFICANT VARIATION (REFTEL) IS THE SPD VIEW THAT THE PRODUCTION DECISION IS UP TO THE U.S. ALONE. ANOTHER ONE, WHICH HAS ALSO EMERGED RECENTLY, IS THAT A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS WOULD LAPSE BETWEEN SUCH A PRODUCTION DECISION AND THE NEED FOR THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES TO FACE THE ADDITIONAL DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE. THIS INTERLUDE WOULD BE DEVOTED TO EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. IN ADDITION, SPD PARTY SPOKESMEN TEND TO SEE MBFR AS THE LOGICAL EAST-WEST FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THE NEUTRON WEAPON; AND SOVIET TANKS AS A LEADING ITEM AGAINST WHICH TO NEGOTIATE A DEPLOYMENT DECISION ON THIS

WEAPON.
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